## STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT REGARDING THE PROCEDURE FOR DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

**PRESIDENT** : Under Rule 69, the debate on the Budget will begin with a general discussion and be followed by the voting of Demands for Grants. Two days have been allotted for the general discussion and the maximum of seven days has been set apart for the voting of Demands for Grants. The Demands will be taken up in the order in which they are printed in the list of Demands, copy of which has been already furnished to honourable members. The Demands under II—Land Revenue and Taxes on Income—and VII—Public Works may each be discussed for one whole day; and not more than half a day will be allotted for each of the remaining Demands.

Every member, other than the Financial Secretary, will be allowed during the general discussion stage, not more than *fifteen minutes* as usual. But I hope honourable members will, while not unduly restraining themselves, allow as many non-official members as possible to participate in the discussion and also render it possible to give the Government members adequate time for reply.

I find on scrutiny of the names furnished by the Secretary that there are 22 members of the National Congress Party, 11 members in the People's Party and 28 members who belong to no party. My endeavour will be, as far as possible, to give the members of these parties in proportion to their numbers opportunity for speaking. Roughly speaking 10 members of the National Congress Party, 5 members of the People's Party and 13 members of no party, will be allowed to take part in the general discussion of the Budget. I shall be glad if honourable members of each party who wish to speak will kindly give their list to the Secretary sufficiently early so that they may be called up as they stand and catch the eye of the President.

When voting on the Demands for Grants, every mover and the official member who has the right of reply will be allowed ten minutes each and the other members five minutes each. Standing Order No.59 requires notice of every motion to be given to the Secretary two clear days before the day on which the Demand comes up for consideration. Late motions will not be accepted. It will facilitate business if honourable members giving notice of token motions which can most conveniently be for a reduction of one rupee will also specify the purpose underlying the proposed cut and take care to see that the cut motions are confined to amounts entirely votable.

In this connection, I may also invite the attention of honourable members to my predecessor's ruling regarding budget motions, given on the 30th of July 1935, reported on pages 705 to 707 of Volume VI of the Proceedings of the Sri Mulam Assembly.

In calculating the number of hours to be allotted for the voting of Demands, I propose to follow the procedure which has been followed during the previous years. A day will be taken as from 11 A. M. to



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[President.]

5 P. M. One hour being available for question time, and another hour (1 to 2 P. M.) as lunch interval, the remaining four hours will be treated as one full day and two hours as half a day. If the whole of the first hour is not taken up for questions and answers, the time left over will be available for the voting of Demands for Grants. Such available time will not go to increase the time allotted for any particular Demand but will be available to the House and thus enable them to reach more Demands.

The general discussion of the Budget will now commence and I call upon the Deputy President.

## GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

**MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR** (*Pathanapuram cum Shencottah*): Sir, it is a matter of deep gratification and pride for us to know that the revenue of the State has reached the peak level of Rs. 3 crores, at level which has not been reached in the past. This has now placed the State in a very pre-eminent position among the States of India. It gives us the third rank, Hyderabad and Mysore alone being above us.

Sir, the Revised Estimates that have been placed before us anticipate a substantial surplus of about Rs. 24 lakhs and estimates for the coming year are expected to yield a surplus of about Rs. 5 lakhs. That it will be possible for us to realise a substantial surplus of about Rs. 24 lakhs during the present year is a remarkable tribute to the wise and able handling of the finances and financial transactions of the State by the Head of the Administration and also to the innate soundness of the finances of the State. But we should not on this ground give ourselves up to undue optimism. If you look at the figures that have been tabulated in the Budget Memorandum presented along with the Budget, it will be found that although we have been able to realise a surplus this year and to budget for a surplus during the coming year, our revenues have been subject to wide fluctuations during the past quarter of a century so much so it is a warning to us that we must be very careful about the future. I am suggesting that it should be possible for us to create a substantial revenue surplus. I therefore welcome the decision of the Government to add to the Revenue Reserve Fund that has been created, by the allocation of the anticipated surplus of Rs. 24·32 lakhs for the year, thus raising it to about Rs. 33 lakhs.

I hope, Sir, that this policy of building up a substantial reserve fund will be steadily pursued, particularly in view of the uncertain conditions of the present international situation which are likely to have very serious repercussions on the finances of a maritime State like ours.

Sir, coming to the Budget Estimates presented to us, I shall now refer to a few salient features of the estimates, and of the programme and policy that have been adumbrated in the speech of the Financial Secretary introducing the Budget Estimates. In the first place my attention has been drawn to the fact that the working of the Travancore

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